

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 05060 280604Z

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-03 SNM-02 SS-14 PRS-01 EB-03 IGA-01

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R 271415Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9767

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5060

STADIS/LIMDIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN

SUBJECT: TURKISH OPIUM POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM

REF: ANKARA 4640

AFTER FURTHER REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKISH OPIUM
POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM, THE COUNTRY TEAM SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS:

A. CONTROL PROGRAM. DURING RECENT FIELD TRIPS TO POPPY
REGION, U.S. MISSION OFFICERS NOTED REGIONAL VARIATION IN STAGE
OF POPPY DEVELOPMENT WITH SOME FIELDS IN NORTHERN AFYON STILL
SHOWING BLOOMS WHILE HARVESTING HAD STARTED IN SOUTHERN DENIZLI
AND BURDUR. NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF INCISION WAS SEEN. A USDA
AGRICULTURAL SPECIALIST WHO VISITED REGION RECENTLY SAW EVIDENCE
OF WINTER KILL AND SOME POOR POPPY CROPS IN DENIZLI AND USAK.
ANOTHER MISSION OFFICER WENT TO MALATYA, A FORMER GROWING
REGION NOT RPT NOT NOW LICENSED FOR POPPY GROWTH, WHERE HE
SAW NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF ILLICIT PLANTING. WHILE TMO (SOIL
PRODUCTS OFFICE) INSPECTION TEAMS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN FIELD
WORK BY MISSION OFFICERS, JANDARMA PARTICIPATION IN CONTROL
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 05060 280604Z

PROGRAM APPEARS CONFINED TO CHECKING ILLICIT POPPY PLANTING OR

OVER-PLANTING AND DESTROYING SAME FOLLOWING TMO NOTIFICATION. SOME UNITED NATIONS-PROVIDED JEEPS WERE SEEN AT WORK. TWO MISSION OFFICERS ARE NOW IN FIELD AND FURTHER REPORTS WILL BE MADE.

B. YIELD. NO RPT NO FIRM FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE AS YET ON THE POPPY STRAW YEILD. HOWEVER, THE USDA AGRICULTURAL EXPERT MENTIONED ABOVE ESTIMATED YIELD AT ABOUT 10,000 METRIC TONS.

C. TRAFFICKERS. WE HAVE NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF STRONG EFFORT BY KNOWN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS TO PURCHASE OPIUM GUM IN THE POPPY REGION. ANKARA DEA OFFICERS REPORT THAT UNAVAILABILITY OF MORPHINE BASE AND OPIUM IN WESTERN EUROPE CONTINUES AND PRICES REMAIN HIGH.

D. PRESS COVERAGE. LIBERAL MILLIYET REPORTED JUNE 25 THAT 284 PEOPLE HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY THE JANDARMA IN THE LEGAL POPPY GROWING DISTRICTS OF WESTERN KONYA FOR UNLICENSED POPPY PLANTING. SOME 229,300 SQUARE METERS OF POPPIES WERE REPORTED DESTROYED IN THIS OPERATION. ON JUNE 27 MASS-CIRCULATION HURRIYET CITED SOURCES IN THE AFYON TMO REGIONAL DIRECTORATE THAT THE OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN TO PURCHASE OPIUM POPPY CAPSULES WOULD BEGIN JULY 1.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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